



Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Joint Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) and Provider Supports Meeting
June 1, 2021

Regional Coalition & Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) Updates

Regional Coalition Update

Project Child Success, Pierce County

For more information please contact: Masa Kawamura, masak@first5fundamentals.org

And Nneka Payne, nnekap@first5fundamentals.org

Project Child Success

Project Child Success in partnership with Help Me Grow are collaborating to embed equity in all levels of the initiatives, utilizing Liberatory Design as a framework, and implementing a committee to fill the equity role in the region.

Child Care Strategies Action Team

A Child Care Strategies Team has been formed and is open to all organizations and individuals in Pierce County. The team meets bi-weekly to share updates, brainstorm solutions, and work towards a goal where each family in Pierce County can access the high-quality, equitable, culturally inclusive child care they desire, where and when they need it. Over the past months, the Child Care Strategies Team has taken on a strong leadership role among the community. Through the CARES Act the team has collected valuable data especially around child care deserts and sustainable child care needs. A large scale survey has been launched for families to identify their needs and the direction the team should take moving forward to support the early childhood system in our region.

Vroom

Project Child Success received a grant from the Department of Health to activate Vroom countywide. Vroom is a set of tools and resources designed to inspire families to turn everyday moments into 'brain building moments.' The 2020 activation plan focused on connecting community partners who directly serve families with Vroom resources and materials. The 2021 activation plan will focus on social media engagement, and connecting families to Vroom resources and materials by way of the [10-diaper bank locations in Pierce County](#).

Advocacy

The Advocacy Team and our Mobilization Coordinator Tess Foy (foy@childcare.org) are working to create an advocacy and policy plan for the next year that supports and utilizes the victories from the previous legislative session. Tess will be continuing to lead the Advocacy Pods as well as begin a Summer Advocacy 101 training series to create more informed advocates in our community. In addition, the Advocacy Team will be speaking to representatives over the course of the next few months to have conversations about the above topics.

Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast

For more information, please contact: Colleen Condon, colleen@lilaccityelc.com

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We have continued efforts in hiring a consultant for equity work with our coalition. We have interviewed several candidates and have some more meetings scheduled to make final decisions. Members in WCFC roles have been participating in the statewide meetings and sharing the work back to the group. Many members are working on local issues and participating in workgroups like Spokane Early Learning for All and Spokane Public Schools Early Learning Taskforce. There have been a few in person Play and Learn groups hosted by Community Minded Enterprises and remote services continue as well. We will be hosting Q&A sessions for local candidates running for Spokane City Council as well.

Investing in Children Coalition: Central

For more information, please contact: Lindsay Bowsell, lindsayb@yakimavalleycf.org

No updates to share at this time.

North Central

For more information please contact: Nancy Spurgeon, ccfncw@outlook.com

No updates to share at this time.

Northwest

For more information please contact: Linden Obel, linden@nwelcoalition.org

Recent Highlights

- Northwest Early Learning Coalition received funding through Washington STEM's Early Learning Catalyst Grant for three focus initiatives:
 - Implement Math Anywhere programming through Snohomish ELC and available across region.
 - Build upon the Foundations in Early Numeracy Program administered through the NWESD 189.
 - Design and host a series of business engagement virtual events that will leverage the State of the Children report and work to strengthen business partnerships in the early learning and early care fields.
- Commerce Planning Grant recipients in three of the region's counties are wrapping up initial research that is exploring child care gaps and opportunities:
 - Whatcom has published initial results of the report, which shows a significant child care supply shortage.
 - Island and San Juan plan to share results and recommendations in June.
- Counties with Vroom grants continue to implement Vroom programming.
- County highlights
 - Skagit: Children's Council hosted a FamilyPalooza To-Go event in conjunction with a Children's Museum event where families participated in activities in the Outlet Mall parking lot and were handed a bag filled with flyers/brochures from services organizations and little goodies (play dough, crayons, etc.). The purpose was to promote the virtual map of organizations: www.paloozamac.com
 - Island: Partners for Young Children applied for grant funding from DCYF on Perinatal Mental Health community capacity building and, if awarded, would develop a task force and organize parent support groups.
 - Snohomish: Snohomish County Early Learning Coalition designed and hosted a training about Raising Antiracist Children.
 - Whatcom: Whatcom Early Learning Alliance continues to strategize expansion of an existing, robust referral line to support a HMG Coordinated Access Point and prioritize parent engagement and leadership through policy, advocacy, outreach, and partnership-building.

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Current Priorities

- Our region has agreed to formalize a Help Me Grow sub-affiliate agreement and continues to strategize how to support and leverage the diverse challenges, needs, and resources of our five counties to better coordinate resources for children and families.
- NWELC has begun initial conversations with Equity State Specialist Julia Kagochi to assess how our region and counties have addressed and prioritized equity issues. We aim to set a more tangible vision and accountable structure for centering racial, cultural, linguistic, and social equity in our individual and collective work.
- NWELC continues to strive to establish a coalition structure that is beneficial to all counties, optimizes unique strengths and assets, reduces inequities, and continues to support children, families, and providers amidst a challenging year.

Olympic-Kitsap Peninsulas

For more information, please contact: Candy Lester, clester@oesd114.org

No updates to share at this time.

King County

For more information, please contact: Sarah Clark, sarah@soarkc.org

No updates to share at this time.

Southeast

For more information, please contact: Matt Bona, mbona@esd123.org

Benton-Franklin Early Learning Alliance -

The Benton Franklin Early Learning Alliance continues to get more comfortable with the Help Me Grow Framework. As the regional team is learning more through their action team meetings, we are bringing it back to the larger group to incorporate it into our local work.

The regional fundraising lead met with the coalition lead to learn about its history and current activities to determine how to best support the group. It was determined that the best next step is to update their action plan for the post-COVID world and decide as an Alliance what their priorities will be for the upcoming school year.

The advocacy lead held meetings with the coalition leads to continue coordinating a summer legislative roundtable.

BEFLA is finishing up community survey and focus group work for their childcare partnership grant from the Department of Commerce. They are conducting a needs assessment around the need for more childcare capacity in the evenings and weekends.

BEFLA also worked together to create a community action plan for our ESIT partners in the Tri-Cities.

Walla Walla Early Learning Coalition-

At the SE WA Regional ELC vision and goals for 21-22 Walla Walla Valley ELC were discussed:

Vision is to address pandemic related concerns for children and families and provide outreach and communications about state and federal benefits.

Goals for WWELC-

1. Tie information from the data project to an improvement and evaluation plan, related to community outcomes we want to see from the ELC.
2. Communications strategy for making sure every family eligible for childcare subsidies is available to get and use it and providers know that their reimbursement rates are going up and there will be

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“infant care enhancements” as well.

3. Establish a recruitment and support system for new and existing childcare providers.
4. Access to Perinatal and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Services.
5. Access to Every Day Early Learning Experiences.
6. Increase awareness about developmental guidelines and screenings.

Asotin/Clarkston Early Learning Coalition –

Continues to recruit members into their coalition. Will assist in helping the Clarkston School District with the district’s Early Learning and Kindergarten round-up. Will attempt to recruit new parent and community members into the ACELC during the round-up.

Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

For more information please contact: Debbie Ham, Debbie.ham@selfwa.org

No updates to share at this time.

Visions for Early Learning, West Central

For more information, please contact: Emily Wilson-Edge, Emily.wilson-edge@centralia.edu

We continue to develop our new norms with paid coordinator staff and HMG action team representatives.

- County Leads are now facilitating local meetings, and feedback from board members has been extremely positive. They remark that meetings are more well attended, more organized, and participants feel more engaged. Member participation and number of county coalition meeting attendees have increased.
- Leads completed the Early Learning Framework at each county coalition and the regional level, supporting members in discussing the history of the region, where potential gaps might be, and where coalitions would like to go from here. At the regional level we layered equity in each bucket of work, and began a conversation particularly around what we have missed, what we hope to gain, and where we see gaps and challenges.

Community Engagement

- Our Communications Lead is providing support to county coalitions in developing their web pages and social media, including launching new sites for counties that have not yet had a social media presence.
- Groups are forming with the intention of identifying ways to partner effectively with local organizations and be involved in community activities in a way that solidifies the coalition presence.
- Coalitions are increasingly interested in reaching a broader audience to include more families and providers. Equity conversations are beginning around who is left out and why, and how to better engage. There is an understanding that this is a process that requires time, reflection, and building relationships.
- Coalitions shared resources across each county, including Vroom, fatherhood opportunities, tools for resilience, the SMART team supports for autistic children, and other health, education, family, and early learning opportunities.

Challenges and Opportunities

- In beginning discussions around resource and ripple mapping, barriers have arisen around privacy, access, intent, and outcomes.
- As we engage in equity work, we acknowledge that not all participants and partner organizations are at the same place or have the same level of commitment. We commit to understanding and

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dismantling harmful systems, which includes developing approaches to reach our partners, and support those who are working within for change.

- Next steps are to review our Early Learning Frameworks across the region to identify commonalities, needs, and actions.

WCFC Updates – For more information please contact: info@washingtoncfc.org

No updates to share at this time.